



Rapa Nui Notes is an international newsletter published four times per year for the benefit of all those interested in the archaeology and anthropology of Easter Island. Correspondence, brief articles, photographs, drawings, reviews of books and films, announcements of conferences and publications, and related materials are invited, but we cannot be responsible for unsolicited items or anything submitted without adequate return postage or International Reply Coupon. Subscription rates: US 4 issues \$12; foreign 4 issues \$20 sent airmail; US funds only, please. Address: Georgia Lee, Ph.D., Rapa Nui Notes, P.O. Box 1275, San Luis Obispo CA 93406 USA.

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What's New In Hangaroa

Three earthquakes rocked Rapa Nui in July, the largest being 5.9 on the Richter Scale. Because these phenomena are very rare on the island, many of the inhabitants panicked, some fleeing to high ground as they anticipated a *tsunami* (which did not materialize). No reports of injuries or damage have been forthcoming, although a visitor on the island noted some interesting behavior when the earthquakes struck: many islanders ran outside and looked UP.

In March 1988, High School classes will begin at the island school.

Our last issue reported on the government housing plan to provide homes to islanders. We have been advised that some 50 of them have been found to be defective in some way. Some roofs blew off in a storm, leaky plumbing has caused problems, and in some cases the walls do not meet the floors!

1988 marks the 100th anniversary of the annexation of Rapa Nui by Chile. It is reported that the *Semana de Rapa Nui*, which takes place around the end of January, will be expanded for a special celebration.

The Concorde will land on Rapa Nui on 8 November. This charter flight for the rich and famous will be making a 'round the world trip; they stop on the island for one day. The arrival of the Concorde will undoubtedly be a sight to behold and an event for the islanders.

The BBC will be filming a documentary on the island, beginning in November.

From Germany comes word of an Easter Island Exhibition scheduled from April to September, 1989, in Frankfurt. A substantial catalogue will be published by the Lindrunberg Museum. Dr. Heide Margaret Esen-Baur is director of the project.

William Mulloy Memorial Issue

March 1988 marks the 10th anniversary of the death of William Mulloy. Research on Rapa Nui did not end with Bill's demise, for his students and colleagues have continued the projects he initiated; research is still on-going, particularly the exhaustive archaeological survey of the entire island.

We are planning a special issue of Rapa Nui Notes in his honor and are now soliciting papers. Papers may be up to two full pages (see Rapa Nui Notes for size of page), and illustrations are welcome. Deadline for submitting papers is 15 February 1988.

Bill Mulloy and his research efforts on the island touched many of us in many different ways--and not the least of these are the islanders themselves who, through Bill's efforts, have been able to regain a portion of their past.

The Many Faces Of Rapa Nui

Alan S. Coulson

Rapa Nui's first contact with European culture is commonly dated to 1722 when a Dutch explorer, Mynheer Jacob Roggeveen, landed on the island on Easter Sunday. In honor of the day, he called it Paasch Eyland (Easter Island).

Roggeveen had three ships: the *Arend* (120 feet, with a crew of 110 men); the *Thienhoven* (100 feet and 80 men); and *De Afrikaansche Galey* (92 feet and 33 men). They sailed around the island from the 6th to the 10th of April, spending but one fateful day ashore.

One islander swam out to a ship and climbed aboard, curious to see the newcomers. He was in his 50s, dark, with a goatee--and he was to be one of the first to fall in the barrage of gunfire that occurred during the landing (McCall 1981:29).

Only 114 men actually set foot on land; others were left aboard the boats. In a column three ranks wide and covered on the right and left by soldiers, the landing party moved forward in close formation. However, within minutes an altercation arose between the men in the last ranks and some natives; shots were fired and ten or twelve of the islanders were killed.

One can but imagine the impact made by the sight of three unusual ships on the horizon, organized military ranks, and sudden death from unknown weapons (Van Tilburg 1986:26-29).

However, some authors (Wycherley 1928:222) insist that Roggeveen was actually re-discovering the island, for a buccaneer named Edward Davis had sighted an unknown island in these waters in 1686. Davis, in his ship *Bachelor's Delight*, was sailing the Pacific, preying on the Spanish, when he was blown off course. He was enroute from the Galapagos to southern Chile and at a location he estimated to be 500 leagues east of Capiapo, Chile, he sighted a low sandy island with a range of high land to the west of it. He made no attempt to land, but as a result of his reports, it became known as "Davis Island", and then "Davis Land". Many believed it to be the eastern-most tip of a continent, and when Captain James Cook set out in 1774, he was looking for this "continent" which was thought to exist somewhere between Chile and Australia (Chapman 1964:27).

After four years of buccaneering, Davis navigated back to Jamaica with 50,000 pieces of eight and, receiving amnesty from King James II, settled in Virginia (Wycherley 1928:224); at this point, he disappears from the pages of history.

It is significant that the Dutch thought at first that they had reached Davis' "sandy isle", but daylight observation made it clear to them that the island was a new discovery. Both Heyerdahl (1961:45) and Metraux (1940:36) suspect that Davis Island was a combination of Timoe and Mangareva, some 2500 km west

(continued on Page 2)

The Many Faces Of Rapa Nui (continued) Rapa Nui Journal: Journal of the Easter Island Foundation, Vol. 1 [1986], Iss. 5, Art. 1
of Easter Island, and strong currents had carried the Bachelor's Delight further west than was suspected.

Wycherley (1928:222) also states that Davis was rediscovering an island that had been previously sighted by the Spanish Captain, Alvaro de Mendana in 1567--approximately half a century after Magellan had established a sea route between the Atlantic and the Pacific. Mendana set out to search for islands west of Chile and must have made it into the general vicinity, but bitter quarrels between the navigator Sarmiento and the younger Mendana broke out; Mendana altered his course drastically from west-south-west to west-north-west, with the result that the expedition passed between the island groups and they did not find land until they reached the Solomon Islands in Melanesia (Heyerdahl 1961:44). The second Mendana expedition discovered the Marquesas Islands in 1595 (Denning 1980:9); while it is possible Mendana did reach Easter Island, his logs do not mention it. One would hope that he did not; during his brief visit at the Marquesas, the Spanish (by their own count) shot and killed some 200 islanders, mostly for sport (ibid).

We will never know what--if any--buccaneers came to Easter Island in the 17th century or earlier, for most of them did not keep accurate records of their voyages nor their landings, and seldom recounted the dreadful things they did to native populations. Perhaps a contact prior to Roggeveen caused major changes in the cultural development of the island. At the very least, any landing or close contact would bring the prospect of diseases and cultural contamination.

Easter Island has also been known by other names: the Spanish, led by Don Felipe Gonzalez de Haedo, came to the island in 1770; they too were searching for the "Tierra de David." They gave it the name of San Carlos. It was called Rapa Nui in the 1800s by some sailors who thought it bore a resemblance to Rapa Island in the Australs.

What did the islanders themselves call it? Simply "the land"--the center of the world--te pito te henua.

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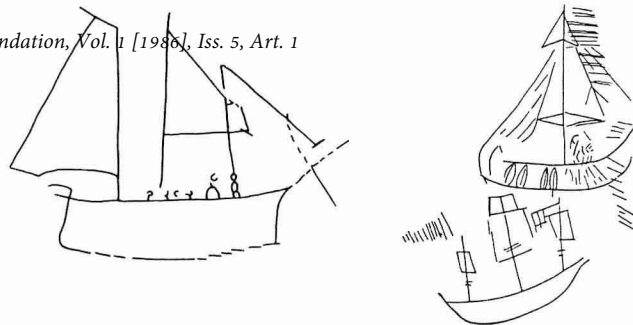
Roggeveen, J. Extract from the official log of the voyage of Mynheer Jacob Roggeveen....IN: The Voyage of Captain Don Felipe Gonzalez to Easter Island, 1770-1. Trans. and Ed. by B.G. Corney. Hakluyt Society, Ser. II (13), 1908. Kraus Reprint, 1967.

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Coming Attractions

A report on stone conservation efforts on Rapa Nui, by Monica Bahamondez Prieto.....Mission Speleologique 1986 a L'ile de Paques, by Claude Vignes.....Maria de Rapa Nui--an essay on the wonderful statue of the Virgin in the island's church, by Dean R. Seaver.....The ancient solar observatories of Rapa Nui, by William Liller.....



Rapa Nui petroglyphs of historical ships. The example on the left is from Hanga Tee; on the right is one from Hanga Tu'u Hata. Both are on the south coast of the island and are incised on dense basalt.

Religious Records In The Easter Island Tablets

by Sergej V. Rjabchikov

We are pleased to include in this issue of Rapa Nui Notes a paper dealing with the famous rongo rongo boards. The author, Russian ethnologist Sergej Rjabchikov, invites comments and discussion regarding his decipherment. His address appears below.

Easter Island hieroglyphic records (rongo rongo) investigated by the author contain many religious texts that have parallels in Easter Island and other Polynesian mythologies. Below we provide some examples. Important sources for these interpretations are the rules of sound gradations in the Polynesian languages (Tregear 1891:XIV-XXIV)

The first fragment consists of the word matua (Glyph #8): "father/mother/parent"; tuna (#13): "eel"; nui (#9): "the plant nui/coconut palm". Thus, it is a version of the Ure-Vae-Iko chant (Métraux 1940:321) and general Polynesian myths (Buck 1938:304) concerning the origin of the coconut which grew from the head of the eel, Tuna.

The second fragment relates to the goddess Hina-"popoia" (#2, 15, 25) and her daughter Hina-"kauhara" (#2, 6), mythological characters from Easter Island (Métraux 1940:321) and Polynesian folklore (Buck 1938:152).

In fragment three, the names of the god Tiki (#1) and the goddess Hina (#2) are written down in different records. In the first segment, the word atua (#4) (god) is written after the name Tiki.

Other gods' names are presented in fragment four. They are the goddesses Hina-"kauhara" (#2, 6) and Hina-"popoia" (#2, 15, 25); Hatu (#6, 7), which corresponds to the god Tiki; Haua (#14) (the goddess Hina); the god Hiro (#10, 15); and the god Kahi (#16), who is analogous with the god Tangaroa.

We believe that Haua corresponds to the goddess Hina because, as Haua only had one companion--Makemake (Métraux 1940:313-314), and as Makemake is synonymous with Tiki (Barthel 1957), Haua may be a local name for Tiki's wife, Hina. In fragment five, glyphs #2 and 14 (Hina-Haua) provide confirmation.

In fragment six, the names of the deities Haua (#14) and Maki-Makemake (#31) introduce a common attribute; glyph #14 depicts a hat (Métraux 1940:224) (cf. hau="hat"); the prototype of glyph #31 is a petroglyph depicting the god Makemake (Heyerdahl 1976:63, Figure 16 a,b).

In the seventh fragment (segments 1 and 3) is a common text: Tiki-Matua (#1, 26, 4; #1, 8) is written either in syllabic or ideographic fashion. This is confirmed by our reading that Matua was the equivalent of Tiki (Barthel 1957:67, note 39). Glyph #1 represents a vulva (komari) (cf. tiko="menstruation"); the second segment reads Komari-Matua and may be a variant of the name Tiki-Matua.

Fragment eight presents the names of the gods Hiro (#10, 15) and Ruanuku (#29, 30, 19).

Fragment nine contains the name Nuahine-Rima Tika (#37, 2 (or 3, 36), 15, 26, 1), the name of the lesser goddess or aku-aku by the name of The-Old-Woman-of-the-Long-Arm (Blixen 1973:9; Métraux 1940:317). Glyphs #6e, 4 refer to atua or god. Many other names of major or lesser gods are introduced in vast lists in the glyphs 6e, 4, 24; 6e, 4, 32; and #4, 32.

The tenth fragment contains the name of the famous demi-god of the Polynesians, Maui-Tiki (tiki): #49, 1.

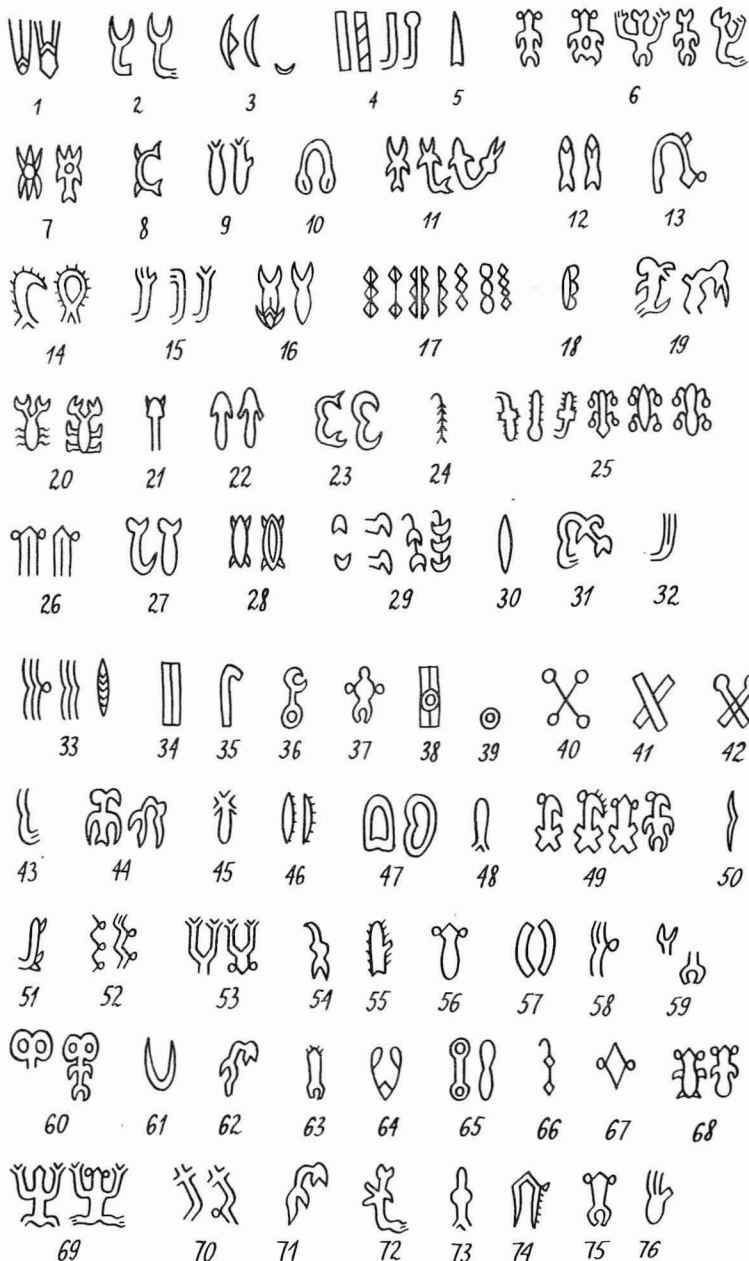


FIGURE 1. Readings of glyphs: 1 = tiko; 2,3 = hina; 4,5 = atu; 6 = ha; 7 = tuu; 8 = matua; 9 = niu; 10 = hi; 11 = pakia, pokia, mango; 12 = ika; 13 = tuna (koreha); 14 = hau; 15 = ro; 16 = kahi; 17,18 = te; 19 = kua, ku, kia, ki; 20 = ungu; 21 = ko (oko); 22 = rapa; 23 = ura; 24 = ari; 25 = hua; 26 = maa (mua); 27 = rau; 28 = nga; 29 = rua; 30 = ana; 31 = Maki; 32 = ua, vai; 33 = vai, ua; 34 = ra; 35 = pa; 36 = 3+65 = hina (glyph 65 = rangi-"sky" is determinative); 37 = nua; 38 = 34+39 = raa-"sun" (glyph 39 is determinative); 39 = raa; 40,41, 42 = are; 43 = ma; 44 = taa, tua; 45 = pua; 46 = na (may be version of glyph 30); 47 = avao; 48 = u; 49 = mau; 50 = i; 51 = ke; 52 = hiti; 53 = maro; 54 = kai; 55 = ti; 56 = po; 57 = tara; 58 = tai; 59 = ka; 60 = mata; 61 = hina; 62 = toa; 63 = papa; 64 = mea; 65 = rangi; 66 = honu; 67 = honu; 68 = honu; 69 = moko; 70 = moko; 71 = ku; 72 = manu; 73 = he; 74 = tini; 75 = ko (oko); 76 = vie.

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Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank Dr. Carlyle Smith (Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas) for kindly sending an issue of Rapa Nui Notes. I was pleased to learn that such a fascinating newsletter existed.

The author also wishes to invite all archaeologists, ethnologists and linguists interested in Easter Island to participate in a symposium titled "Easter Island--Archaeology, Ethnology and Linguistics", which will be held during the 12th International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, July 24-31, 1988, in Zagreb, Yugoslavia. Interested parties may contact Sergej V. Rjabchikov, 1/39 Krasnoarmejskaja Street, 350023 Krasnodar, USSR for information.

A paper by Sergej Rjabchikov titled "Progress report on the decipherment of the Easter Island writing system" will appear in the *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, for September 1987. In this paper, the author examines some readings of the inscriptions as well as the origin of the glyphs.

1. Pz3:
2. Pz3:
3. Pz1: Pz4:
4. Pz6:
5. Aa7:
6. Bv9:
7. Pz7: Pz7:
8. Bz2: Pz7:
9. Sa6:
10. Ev8: Kv4:

FIGURE 2. Fragments from Easter Island tablets (Note: letter and number designations refer to tablets location and classification by Thomas Barthel).

Publications

We have received notice of books and articles about Rapa Nui which have been published in Belgium and France.

L'OUTLILLAGE LITHIQUE DE L'ILE DE PAQUES by Michel Charleux

This publication is a study of Easter Island mata'a, (obsidian spearpoints). It contains 287 pages, 148 illustrations and 47 tables. Published by MEMOIRE DE MAITRISE EN ETHNOARCHEOLOGIE PREHISTORIQUE, UNIVERSITY OF PARIS, 1986. Price is 190 Francs which includes cost of mailing. Order from : Michel Charleux, 18 rue de l'Insurrection-Parisienne, 94600 Choisy-le-Roi, France.

Several issues of Kadath have articles on Rapa Nui; they can be ordered from KADATH, Boulevard St. Michel 6, boîte 9, 1150 Bruxelles, Belgium.

- #2 May-June 1973 (Easter Island, Dieu)
- #20 Nov-Dec 1976 (Rongo rongo, Van Hoorebeck-Bianco)
- #22 Mar-Apr 1977 (Rongo rongo, Van Hoorebeck-Bianco)
- #33 Jun-July 1979 (Isle de paques, Bianco)
- #34 Sep-Oct 1979 (Isle de paques, Bianco-Dederen)
- #39 Sep-Oct 1980 (Critique, Van der Heyden)
- #64 July 1987 (Rano Raraku, Bianco-Dederen)

Also from Belgium: **BULLETINS DE LA SOCIETE DES AMIS DE L'ILE DE PAQUES BELGIQUE**, Institut des sciences naturelles, 31 Rue Vautier, 1040 Bruxelles. Eleven bulletins have been published since Jan 1984; they contain articles (in French) about Rapa Nui and are available for \$2 each.

A large format book with photographs in full color and containing 285 pages was published in 1982. Title: **NOUVEAU REGARD SUR L'ILE DE PAQUES**. Editions Moana Editeur, 43 Rue de Melun Saintry sur Seine, 91100 Corbeil, France.

A book (French) for young people is also listed: **A LA DECOUVERTE DE L'ILE DE PAQUES**, Le monde en poche Edition Nathan, 1985. Andre Valenta, 6/299 Le parc de petit bourg, 91000 Evry, Franch (\$5).

Three bulletins (Nos. 1,2,3) on the speleology of Rapa Nui are available from the **GROUPE D'ETUDES ET DE RESERCHES SPELEOLOGIQUES**, Alain Gauthier, 20 Rue St. Romain, 76000 Rouen, France.

LES CAVERNES DE L'ILES DE PAQUES, by Alain Gautier and Pierre Carlier, in **ARCHEOLOGIA: Revue** #221 (Feb 1987), 25 Rue Berbisey, 21000 Dijon, France (\$5).

PAQUES L'ILE MYSTERIEUSE, by Francois Dederen, in **LE MONDE DES PHILATELISTES**: #401 (Oct 1986), Rue Chauchat 24, 750009 Paris, France. This is a three page article in color.

The August 1987 issue of **KA'ELELE** (V. 14, No.8), the Newsletter of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum in Honolulu, has an article by Dr. John Randall titled "Origins of the Rapanui People of Easter Island". Randall and Alfredo Cea Egana are co-authors of "Native Names of Easter Island Fishes, with Comments on the Origin of the Rapanui People", **OCCASIONAL PAPERS**, Vol. XXV (12), 1984, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI.

ARCHAEOASTRONOMY, Vol IX is now being readied for publication. Two of the papers concern Easter Island: "Celestial Happenings on Easter Island: A.D. 837" by Dr. William Liller; and "Easter Island's Solar Ranging Device, Ahu Huri A Urenga and Vicinity" by William Liller and Julio Duarte. [For information regarding this publication, write: The Center of Archaeoastronomy, P.O.Box 1667, College Park, MD 20740, USA]

Corrections:

Dr. John Randall, Senior Ichthyologist of the Bishop Museum, states that the shark jaw identified in our last newsletter as being from a Great White Shark is actually that of a Tiger Shark, and it represents the first report of this type of shark in Easter Island waters.

The petroglyph stone at the Carnegie Museum is illustrated in Routledge in Figure 107, not 109 as we mistakenly reported in the last issue. Oh for a computer that doesn't make typos!

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